

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3339

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 4986

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT JA

SUBJ: NAGOYA ELECTS REFORMIST MAYOR APRIL 22

1. REFORMIST CANDIDATE MASAO MOTOYAMA ELECTED MAYOR OF NAGOYA BY SLIM MARGIN OF 4,700 VOTES IN SURPRISINGLY HEAVY TURNOUT APR 22 (61.42 PERCENT, COMPARED TO 43.65 PERCENT IN PREVIOUS MAYOR-ALTY ELECTION.) MOTOYAMA, BACKED JOINTLY BY JSP, JCP AND AICHI PREFECTURAL COUNCIL OF LABOR UNIONS, POLLED 421,266 VOTES. INCUMBENT CONSERVATIVE KIYOSHI SUGITO, BACKED BZPJDP AND DSP IN UNSUCCESSFUL TRY FOR FOURTH TERM, POLLED 416,512 VOTES.

2. PRELIMINARY PRESS ANALYSES ATTRIBUTE PROGRESSIVE VICTORY IN JAPAN'S MOST CONSERVATIVE BIG CITY TO GRASSROOTS DISSATISFACTION WITH CITY HALL. FORMER MAYOR WAS WIDELY CRITICIZED FOR PLACING DEVELOPMENT FIRST, I. E. PUSHING FOR CONSTRUCTION OF HIGH-RISE BUILDINGS AND EXPRESSWAYS, WHILE SCHOOL FACILITIES REMAIN INADEQUATE, RATIO OF UNPAVED ROADS IS HIGHEST OF ALL MAJOR CITIES AND ANTI- POLLUTION CONTROLS ARE NON- EXISTENT DESPITE FACT THAT NAGOYA HAS FOURTH LARGEST NUMBER OF POLLUTION VICTIMS OF ALL CITIES IN NATION. FACT THAT LESS TRADITIONAL NEW COMERS NOW OUTNUMBER CONSERVATIVE LONG- TIME RESIDENTS ALSO NOTED.

3. MAYOR- ELECT MOTOYAMA WON MAIDEN EFFORT IN POLITICS AT AGE 62 IN CAMPAIGN FOR POPULAR PARTICIPATION IN CITY GOVERNMENT. ADMITTING HE AN AMATEUR IN URBAN ADMINISTRATION, MOTOYAMA PROMISED TO RECRUIT BRAIN- TRUST FOR ADVICE. LIKE TOKYO GOVERNOR MINOBE WHO APPEARED ON PLATFORM WITH HIM DURING CAMPAIGN, MOTOYAMA IS AN EDUCATOR BY PROFESSION (FORMER DEAN OF NAGOYA
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UNIVERSITY FACULTY OF EDUCATION) AND HAS SUPPORTED EFFORTS TO PROVIDE EDUCATION FOR THE HANDICAPPED.

4. MOTOYAMA VICTORY INTERPRETED BY PRESS AS PROTEST AGAINST ESTABLISHMENT GROWTH POLICIES, AND THUS AS SHARP BLOW TO PRIMIN TANAKA PLAN TO REMODEL JAPAN. PRIMIN APPEARED IN NAGOYA IN SUPPORT OF SUGITO CANDIDACY TWO DAYS BEFORE ELECTION. NAGOYA WIN ALSO SEEN AS RENEWING JSP AND JCP CONFIDENCE IN JOINT STRUGGLE TACTICS IN LOCAL ELECTION CAMPAIGNS, FOLLOWING CONSERVATIVE VICTORIES AGAINST DIVIDED OPPOSITION PARTIES IN MIYAGI GUBERNATORIAL AND SAGAMIHARA MAYORALTY ELECTIONS EARLY THIS YEAR.
INGERSOLL

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